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SEP 07 2007

REMARKS

Claims 8 and 19 were found to be directed to allowable subject matter and would be allowed if they were properly rewritten. Accordingly, each of claims 8 and 19 has been placed in independent form by including the limitations of the base claim and the respective intervening claims. Additionally, to overcome the indefiniteness rejection of claims 4 through 8, 18, and 19, each of claims 8 and 19 has been amended to clarify that the inner, axially-displaceable conical disks are positioned between the outer, axially fixed conical disks of each of the input side and the output side conical disk pairs.

Further, claims 3, 5, 6, 7, 16, and 17 have been amended to depend from independent claim 8, and claims 1, 2, 4 and withdrawn claims 9 through 15 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 20 through 23 depend from independent claim 19 and include the subject matter of amended claims 3, 5, 6, and 16, respectively.

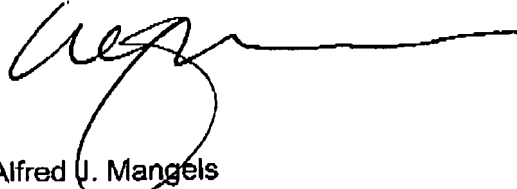
Based upon the foregoing amendments and remarks, the claims as they now stand in the application are believed clearly to be in allowable form in that they are definite and are based upon the examiner's indication of allowability. Consequently, reconsideration and reexamination of the application is respectfully requested with a view toward the issuance of an early Notice of Allowance.

The examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned attorney if this Amendment raises any questions, so that any such question can be quickly

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resolved in order that the present application can proceed toward allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



September 7, 2007

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